PILOTS FOR C.I.A. THREATEN STRIKE

Air America Fliers Press Demands in Far East

NYT 1/23/73

BANGKOK, Thailand, Jan. 22 (UPI)—Pilots for Air America Inc., one of theAmerican companies that contract flying services to the Central Intelligence Agency in Southeast Asia, threatened today to go on strike.

The pilots set a strike deadline of midnight tomorrow if the company did not meet their demands for a new contract.

The majority of the pilots employedby Air America are former military fliers, many of them with experience in Vietnam. Under a three-year agreement that expired Dec. 31, pilots received salaries of $25,000 to $50,000 a year.

Salaries were computed under a complicated formula that provided extra compensation for exposure to enemy fire and other hazards, as well as for seniority.

The company, which has headquarters in Taiwan and whose ownership has been traced as far as a Delaware-based holding company, is the largest of several air services that fly for the C.I.A. and other American agencies throughout Southeast Asia.

Air America's response to the deadline was that any pilots who did not honor their contracts to fly would face dismissal, sources said.

The pilots, represented by the Far East Pilots Association, are seeking increased pay and improved fringe benefits, including insurance and death payments.